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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/567,738	03/02/2006	Hidekazu Suzuki	28951.1173	7702
53067	7590	03/25/2009	EXAMINER	
STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP			LEE, MICHAEL	
1330 CONNECTICUT AVE., NW			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
WASHINGTON, DC 20036			2622	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			03/25/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/567,738	SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	M. Lee	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 2,4-6,9,11 and 17-19 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 2,4-6,9,11 and 17-19 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 2, and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsunoda (JP02002185874A).

Regarding claim 2, Tsunoda discloses a command transmission means (11) and IEEE 1394 transmission line (21a), and a switching control means (31). However, Tsunoda does not disclose that the IEEE 1394 transmission line is connected to plural external devices as claimed. In any event, since the IEEE 1394 transmission standard enables many devices to communicate with each other on the same bus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to include more than one external electronic devices into Tsunoda so that the versatility of the system could be increased. As well known in the art, external devices connected to an IEEE 1394 port can be addressed and controlled individually.

Regarding claim 4, the control means 31 in Tsunoda is intended to send different control commands, such as the ON and Off commands, to the external devices. The durations and repetitions of these commands can be changed accordingly. It would have been a matter of obvious design choice.

Regarding claims 5 and 6, the analog terminal 21b in Tsunoda is an analog video signal, which is being monitored by control means 31.

3. Claims 9, 11, and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsunoda (JP02002185874A) in view of Reisman (US2003/0229900A1).

Regarding claims 9, 11, and 17-19, in addition of rejection above, Tsunoda does not disclose the digital lines as claimed; instead, he claims an analog line as aforementioned. In any event, Reisman, from the similar field of endeavor, teaches that transmission lines or standards such as HDMI, DVI, USB, IEEE1394, baseband, S video are interchangeable with each other (paragraph 0086). Hence, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time that the invention was made to modify Tsunoda to replace the analog line with the HDMI digital lines of Reisman to perform the well known functions as claimed.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 12/29/09 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In considering applicant's arguments that Tsunoda fails to disclose a command transmission unit able to transmit a plurality of transmission commands, each having different characteristics, to the respective external devices through IEEE 1394 lines... contains no disclosure that would have motivated one of ordinary skill to both connect to multiple external devices and output different transmission commands to each

respective external device, the Examiner disagrees. IEEE 1394 (also known by Sony's iLink, Apple Computer's FireWire brand names and DV port) is a 1995 personal computer and digital video serial bus interface standard offering high-speed communications and isochronous real-time data services, developed primarily by Apple Computer. It is defined in IEEE standard 1394. The system is commonly used for connection of data storage devices and digital video cameras. It is used instead of the more common USB due to its faster speed, and because it does not need a computer host. It also does not need to send a signal telling the other component that it is "alive": a data interruption that makes USB ineffective for professional video work. It can daisy-chain together up to 63 peripherals in a tree-like structure (as opposed to SCSI's linear structure). It allows peer-to-peer device communication, such as communication between a scanner and a printer, to take place without using system memory or the CPU. It is designed to support plug-and-play and hot swapping. Its six-wire cable is not only more convenient than SCSI cables but can supply up to 60 watts of power, allowing low-consumption devices to operate without a separate power cord. Since the IEEE 1394 line in Tsunoda is capable and intended to handle many (up to 63) peripheral devices, one of ordinary skill in the art would have been obvious to utilize this line to connect a plurality of peripheral electronic devices together. If there is only a single peripheral device, there is no need of IEEE 1394 standard. Thus, simply by presenting the IEEE 1394 cable, one knows that it can be used to connect many peripheral devices together. The Office Action based on Tsunoda clearly meets the claimed invention.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Lee whose telephone number 571-272-7349. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9 to 6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran, can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/M. Lee/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2622